

occasions he has said his job was to make a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary and he knew Duffy, as the counselor involved in the issue, would have input in the final decision.

On June 5, 1995, Sen. Daschle wrote to Secretary Babbitt on behalf of Havenick and Moody to request that Babbitt meet with Havenick and Moody to discuss the merits and status of the application.³⁶⁶ In his letter, Daschle emphasized that he did not take any position on the merits of the proposal, and was acting only to facilitate a meeting between the Secretary and the two management representatives. Daschle's letter noted that, according to the two men, the proposal had been before the BIA for 18 months, and "[t]hey are frustrated at what they consider to be the slow pace of the Interior Department review process."³⁶⁷

On June 7, Sibbison responded to Daschle's letter to the Secretary. In her letter, Sibbison stated that the Secretary's busy schedule precluded an opportunity to meet with Havenick and Moody. Sibbison also asserted that the two men had already had "ample opportunity to express their views" in meetings with Duffy and Skibine on May 17, and in a second meeting with Skibine the week prior to the letter.

³⁶⁶Havenick had enlisted Daschle's aid through their mutual friend from the Miami area, Jerome Berlin. As noted above in Section II.F.2., Berlin had long been active in the Democratic Party, including in fund-raising activities with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

³⁶⁷Less than two weeks earlier, St. Croix lobbyist Corcoran had forwarded to Daschle's staff a proposed letter for the Senator to send to Secretary Babbitt. The draft letter did not expressly urge denial of the application, but described the MAO recommendation favoring it as "incredibl[e]." Draft letter from Sen. Daschle to Sec. Babbitt, May 26, 1995 (attached to Letter from Thomas Corcoran to Deborah Dubray, May 25, 1995). The draft letter requested that the Secretary meet with the leaders and representatives of tribes opposed to the Hudson casino proposal. Daschle and his staffer recall talking to Kitto about the Hudson matter, but neither recalls him or anyone else asking them to send a letter on their behalf. There is no record of such a letter being sent.